

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CU-05 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 271638Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5681

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7086

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK POLITICS - POISED FOR THE RACE

1. SUMMARY. GREEK INDIVIDUALISM SURGED AGAIN WITH REPORTS
SEPTEMBER 26 OF TWO NEW POLITICAL FORMATIONS. STEPHANOPOULOS
ANNOUNCED HIS SUPPORT FOR CARAMANLIS. FORMER PM KANELLOPOULOS
CONTINUES TO KEEP HIS OWN COUNSEL. IN RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE
ANDREAS PAPANDREOU SAID BEHIND ELECTIONS IS TRAP LEADING TO
RETURN OF KING. ALL PARTIES ANTICIPATE NEXT WEEK WILL BRING
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION DATE (PROBABLY NOVEMBER 10), PUBLICATION
OF CANDIDATES' LISTS BY EACH PARTY AND PARTY PLATFORMS. END
SUMMARY.

2. SUBSTANTIATING LAST WEEK'S RUMOR, NINETEEN PROMINENT
PERSONALITIES, ALL RELATIVELY YOUNG AND NEARLY ALL ASSOCIATED
WITH RESISTANCE EFFORTS, ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL
MOVEMENT TO BE CALLED "NEW POLITICAL FORCES." LEADING LIST OF
FOUNDERS ARE FOUR GOG MINISTERS: JOHN PESMAZOGLOU (FINANCE),
GEORGE MANGAKIS (PUBLIC WORKS), DIMITRIOS TSATSOS (UNDER
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION), AND CONSTANTINE ALAVANOS (UNDER
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS), PROFESSORS GEORGE KOUMANDOS,
ANASTASIOS PEAPONIS, GEORGE IORDANIDES, GENERAL HA (RETIRED), AND
VIRGINIA TSOUDEROU, DAUGHTER OF EX-PM TSOUDEROS. STATEMENT OF
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NEW MOVEMENT INCLUDED PLEDGE TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING

ELECTIONS, ENDORSEMENT OF FAITH IN DEMOCRACY AND INSTITUTIONS OF MULTI-PARTY PARLIAMENT, PROCLAMATION OF COOPERATION AND RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN EUROPE, AND NEED TO PURGE ALL NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF CONSEQUENCES OF APRIL 21 REVOLUTION. NONE OF FOUNDERS HAS EXPERIENCE IN POLITICS NOR HAS SERVED AS DEPUTY PREVIOUSLY. OLDTIME POLITICIANS ANTICIPATE "NEW FORCES" WHILE MAINTAINING SEPARATE IDENTITY WILL REMAIN WITHIN CENTER UNION FOLD WHERE FOUNDERS HAVE BEEN ALIGNED IN PAST.

3. COINCIDING WITH ADVENT OF "NEW FORCES" WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY EX-MINISTER OF DEFENSE PETROS GAROUFALIAS (CU) THAT HE HAD JOINED RANKS WITH NINE OTHER EX-DEPUTIES FROM CENTER UNION, ERE, AND FDK WHO NO LONGER RESPECT LEADERSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES. (THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT AS TO HOW SERIOUSLY THIS MOVEMENT CAN BE TAKEN BECAUSE OF SKEPTICISM ABOUT GAROUFALIAS' CREDENTIALS AS LEADER OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY.)

4. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, FOUNDER OF PAN-HELLENIC SOCIALIST PARTY, PASOK, TOLD NEWSMEN SEPTEMBER 26 AFTER RETURN FROM ITALY THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT RESULT OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN HE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. PAPANDREOU ADDED THAT GOVERNMENT IS SETTING TRAP BY WHICH ELECTIONS WILL LEAD TO RETURN OF KING CONSTANTINE. HE TOOK OCCASION TO AGAIN OPPOSE EARLY ELECTIONS "WHILE AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS AND THOSE WHO BETRAYED CYPRUS REMAIN UNPUNISHED." PAPANDREOU'S REMARKS ANTICIPATE AT LEAST THREE PROBABLE CAMPAIGN ISSUES, STATUS OF MONARCHY, "DEJUNTIZATION", AND ROLE OF FOREIGN AGENTS, E.G.USG, CIA, NATO. EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM SEPARATE SOURCES THAT ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S PASOK IS GETTING OFF TO SLOW START. HE REPORTEDLY IS NOT DRAWING SUPPORT OF LIBERALS OF CENTER UNION LEFT/WING BUT ONLY FROM URBAN YOUTH AND STUDENTS WHO MAY ULTIMATELY OPT FOR LEFTIST/COMMUNIST ALTERNATIVE. ONE SOURCE INDICATED PAPANDREOU HAS PAID SUBSTANTIAL SUM TO APOYEVMATINI, POPULAR AFTERNOON DAILY, TO SUBSIDIZE PROMINENT COVERAGE OF PASOK.

5. NEXT FEW DAYS ARE EXPECTED TO BRING ANNOUNCEMENT OF PM CARAMANLIS' NEW MOVEMENT, "NEA DEMOCRATIA", WHICH ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS WILL INCLUDE NEW POLITICAL PERSONALITIES WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS FOR FIRST TIME. SPECULATION ANTICIPATES THAT "NEA DEMOCRATIA" WOULD EXCLUDE JUNTA COLLABORAT- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ORS.

6. MAVROS' RETURN NEXT WEEK WILL REKINDLE CENTER UNION PARTY ACTIVITIES. ERE EX-DEPUTIES DESPAIR THAT CONSERVATIVE PARTY PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS ARE STILL LAGGING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PARTIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS07086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740273-1104
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974099/aaaaahla.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK POLITICS - POISED FOR THE RACE
TAGS: PINT, GR, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005